

August 18, 2000

Getting An Edge

Opening: Friday was 25th Anniversary of the Death of Elvis Presley, what a news worthy item, right? Fridays from calendar cartoonist, Gary Larson's The Far Side What really happened to Elvis... three silhouetted figures in the upstairs room of the Bates Motel Alfred Hitchcock's film Psycho. comment, "Mother meet our new house guest."

Text 2 Samuel 11:1-26

This message will be the other side of Life's Little Challenges of overcoming the obstacles of life ... again using David as the key figure
Today we will look at the other side of the story of **part II** of David's life

Keep this thought in the back of your mind ... **God is looking for someone he can bless.**

I. National Greatness

Israel is at a high water mark historically. Things are going great
Under David's leadership God has brought prosperity, peace, and safety.

For the nation things have never been better, and yet during the same time David will experience his low mark, the most disappointing moments of his life.

Before David became king and most of his earlier life we find David inquired of the Lord. Seeking for God's direction when making important decisions.

But after he is established, as King and life got easier, he is no longer on the run for his life. Sadly you don't read about David seeking or inquiring of the Lord for his advice.

So at the height of his power at a time of ease, David experiences his worst failure.

Alarms should be going off everywhere in your brain
... warning ... warning

What did Paul write in his second letter to the Corinthian church?

2 Corinthians 12:10 "Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in necessities, in persecutions, in distresses for Christ's sake: for when I am weak, then am I strong."

Read 2 Samuel 11:1-26 read

Lets not get into who is at fault here between David and BathSheba. I don't see any innocent parties on either side.

The Architecture In Israel at that time period, a house that had two or more rooms was built with an open courtyard within the house. Almost like a Florida room without windows or a ceiling.

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It was in the closed courtyard that BathSheba would have been seen bathing. Privacy from street level but not from above ...

David was having one of those restless night's sleep. Perhaps thinking about the troops out in the field. He always accompanied the forces but this time had stayed back in Jerusalem. Unable to sleep, he gets up and goes to his roof top, probably the best vantage point to overlook the city.

It was all so innocent the way it started no intentions, but then he is faced with the view of a beautiful woman bathing herself and temptation, lust to be more accurate jumps on him.

Consider the choices and the events that follow these decisions.

David isn't satisfied with the peak he got he has made up his mind he wants far more.

- **David investigates** ... who is this babe? ... discovers she is the wife of one of his soldiers away in the field.
- **David sends messengers** secretly to bring her to him even though she is married
- **BathSheba responds** with what appears to be no resistance in coming to David She may have been lonely; perhaps she was flattered that the King was interested
- **Adultery** Once they are together there is no turning back
- **Pregnancy** ... she had just completed her menstrual cycle, it could not be her husband's child.
- **Followed by deception** ... David tries to cover up this mess by bringing home Uriah her husband for a little R& R from the front get him together with his wife and let nature take its course. It doesn't work, Uriah has a better honor code than the U.S. Marines and will not even go into his own house but sleeps on the front door step of the King's house.
- **Murder**, and he makes his commander in chief Joab a co-conspirator in the deed instructing Joab to put Uriah up at the front and pull back troop support during an attack. ... Joab does and Uriah and several other innocent men are killed along with him.
- David comforts than marries BathSheba *Did she realize what David had done?!*
- BathSheba's child dies

Follow the Order of events with me

Lust – Adultery – Deception – Murder – Death all from giving to this temptation.

II. A Man After God's Own Heart?

What happened to David's relationship with God during this whole nasty affair?

⇒During that episode it was David not God that broke off this relationship with the Lord.

He was so consumed with his desires and plans that he forgot about God, as though He did not exist. Does this sound familiar?
How is that possible? That is the very nature of sin!

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The term **sin** literally means to miss the mark, like archers arrows falling short of their target. They failed to make contact with the target.

We fail to maintain contact with God when we let this condition take over us that the Bible has termed sin. Sin separates us from close relationship with God!

God still loved David but his actions hardly pleased the Lord and temporarily destroyed David's effectiveness as the servant and leader.

Consider the reaction of the American people and of Christians specifically if President Bush, an openly confessed Christian, were to be caught in this level of scandal. The fall out would be devastating!

Decisions and choices to yield the right of way to temptation are not only hurtful to our relationship with God but its effects are multiplied in so many directions on so many people.

Even if you think your sin is secret, you are hurting your effectiveness for God.

Our enemy will whisper that everything is ok, using all kinds of reasonable and rational thoughts.

But once the deed is complete he will tell you what a loser, hypocrite and a failure you are and how you don't deserve God's love ... you should just give up.

We need longer memories, because he will use the same techniques over and over again.

III. Patterns of Sin

If a pattern of sin is created in a particular area of weakness in our lives, frustration and guilt will render a sense of hopelessness and an attitude of defeat. Leaving you feeling powerless, unsure and ineffective, not making the impact on the world that God had planned for you.

In Matt. 6:24 Jesus said you cannot serve two masters. Believe it!

Illustration: In the movie Outlaw Josie Wales, Clint Eastwood teams up with an unlikely sidekick an old Indian Chief who steals the show. One of the quotes he makes to Clint Eastwood, who has become amazing guerrilla warrior, goes like this.

"Every man I ever knew who was great with a gun and lived had an edge."

The gunfighter's edge.

He goes on to explain that the edge or advantage might be standing with their back to the sun to make the enemy squint before the fighting starts.

What is the advantage or edge that the believer has?

1. **Knowledge & recognition** that God is greater than any temptation that comes against us. Jesus demonstrated a sinless life while living here among us in human form.
2. **Understanding** ... the nature of temptation ... greater is He that is in us but we also recognize our weakness of our humanity. David failed to do that!

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We must avoid putting ourselves in a position of weakness when possible.

If you are or were an alcoholic you cannot go out to the bar with your friends and hang out.

You can't take a drink ever again. Whether it is food or substance, or lust we cannot deal with the problem from a position of weakness.

Think about the Lord's Prayer or Jabez ' prayer for that matter, deliver us from temptation

3. Repentance and confession see **James 5:16**

This is God's plan for support and success partnership teaming up with another for prayer and accountability "the fervent effective prayer"

IV. Final thoughts

Consider what Paul the Apostle wrote in **2 Corinthians 12:7** messenger of Satan
In **1 Corinthians 9:27** I keep my body under subjection I don't want to become a castaway

⇒ Think about what you could accomplish for God if we were not wasting time and energy fighting ourselves, the guilt and disgust we experience when we fail to walk by faith and give into temptation.

God is looking for someone who will put them selves in that position to receive His blessing.

Closing: Quote "Some people succeed because they are destined to but most succeed because they

are determined to."

Ephesians 6:13-14 Having done all to prepare... Stand your ground in the power and tools of the Lord.